

SENATE BILL 375

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14

2003 Regular Session
3r2155
CF 3r1171

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Law - Expiration of Gift Certificates - Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a gift certificate from expiring before redemption for
4 the complete face value of the gift certificate; defining a term; providing for the
5 construction and application of this Act; and generally relating to the expiration
6 of gift certificates.

7 BY adding to

8 Article - Commercial Law

9 Section 14-1319

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Commercial Law**

15 14-1319.

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "GIFT CERTIFICATE" INCLUDES A GIFT CARD OR OTHER
17 DOCUMENT OR DEVICE WITH AN INTENDED CASH VALUE TO EVIDENCE A GIFT FROM
18 THE PURCHASER TO A THIRD PARTY USABLE ON ITS FACE AMOUNT IN EXCHANGE
19 FOR GOODS OR SERVICES.

20 (B) A GIFT CERTIFICATE, GIFT CARD, OR OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE ISSUED TO A
21 CONSUMER MAY NOT EXPIRE PRIOR TO ITS USE.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a presently existing
23 obligation or contract right may not be impaired in any way by this Act.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
25 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have
26 any effect on or application to any gift certificate issued before the effective date of
27 this Act.

1 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2003.